CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for aggregating television programming in a personal video recording ("PVR") system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of television signals;

tuning each of said television signals in one of a plurality of tuners;

buffering said television signals on a storage medium in at least one PVR media server;

coupling a plurality of clients, over a network, to said PVR media server;

generating a request from a requesting client for a list of television programming from each of said PVR media servers on said network;

receiving, from each PVR media server, a list of television programming available through said respective PVR media servers; and

aggregating, at said requesting client, a list of television programming information available within said PVR system.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting buffered television signals from said PVR media server to said clients, so as to display television programs of said television signals at said clients;

3. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of generating a request for a list of television programming comprises the step of discovering PVR media servers on said network.

4. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming across a plurality of PVR media servers.

5. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming across at least one PVR media server comprising a plurality of television tuners.

6. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming across a plurality of television service providers.

7. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said television programming comprises buffered live television.

8. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said television programming comprises television programming previously stored on said storage medium.

9. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system further comprises the step of determining whether television programming is unique from other television programming.

10. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by channel.

11. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by time slots.

12. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by television shows.

13. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by genre.

14. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by television show episodes.

15. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by actors appearing in television shows.

16. A computer readable medium comprising a plurality of instructions, which when executed by the computer, causes the computer to perform the steps of:

receiving a plurality of television signals;

tuning each of said television signals in one of a plurality of tuners;

buffering said television signals on a storage medium in at least one PVR media server;

coupling a plurality of clients, over a network, to said PVR media server;

generating a request from a requesting client for a list of television programming from each of said PVR media servers on said network;

receiving, from each PVR media server, a list of television programming available through said respective PVR media servers; and

aggregating, at said requesting client, a list of television programming available within said PVR system.

17. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, further comprising the step of transmitting buffered television signals from said PVR media server to said clients, so as to display television programs of said television signals at said clients;

18. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of generating a request for a list of television programming comprises the step of discovering PVR media servers on said network.

19. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming across a plurality of PVR media servers.

20. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming across at least one PVR media server comprising a plurality of television tuners.

21. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming across a plurality of television service providers.

22. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein said television programming comprises buffered live television.

23. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein said television programming comprises television programming previously stored on said storage medium.

24. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of determining whether television programming is unique from other television programming.

25. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by channel.

26. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by time slots.

27. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by television show.

28. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by genre.

29. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by television show episodes.

30. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 16, wherein the step of aggregating a list of television programming available on said PVR system comprises the step of aggregating a list of television programming by actors appearing in television shows.

31. A personal video recording ("PVR") system comprising:

at least one PVR media server comprising:

input for receiving a plurality of television signals;

a plurality of tuners for tuning each of said television signals;

storage medium for buffering said television signals;

network; and

a plurality of clients, coupled over said network to said PVR media server, for generating a request from a requesting client for a list of television programming from each of said PVR media servers on said network, for receiving, from each PVR media server, a list of television programming

available through said respective PVR media servers, and for aggregating, at said requesting client, a list of television programming available within said PVR system.